Bamboo and Cane Industry

888. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bamboo and cane products of North-Eastem Region are in great demands in international market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan of the Centre to help small sector of North-Eastern Region to provide modern training to the artisans, living in abject poverty with a view to improve their economy along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Bamboo and cane products of the North-Eastern Region are being exported to different countries like Australia, Belgium, Canada, USA, Germany, Denmark, France, UK, etc., by several exporters from India. The main products exported are: Bamboo Bags, Bamboo flowers, Bamboo furniture, Mats, Musical Instruments, Bamboo frames, Sport Items, Cane sticks and other Handicarft items. The Quantum of exports of Bamboo and cane products from India in the last four years are:

Year 2003-04	Rs. 12.39 crore
Year 2004-05	Rs. 14.18 crore
Year 2005-06	Rs. 17.28 crore
Year 2006-07	Rs. 24.85 crore

(c) Different agencies of the Government of India provide training to the artisans involved in the manufacture of bamboo and cane products in the North-East. These include:

(i) The Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), under the Ministry of Textile, is the leading organisation working for the development of Handicraft Sector including Bamboo and Cane Handicraft Products in the country from NER. They have taken up interventions in more than 10 Bamboo and Cane clusters in NER. Human Resource Development Scheme has been formulated to provide qualified and trained work force to establish strong production centres coupled with improved quality by using appropriate technologies processes and innovative designs to meet the present day international market requirement.

(ii) Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre (CBTC), Guwahati, also imparts training to the artisans for NER, CBTC in association with Ministry of Labour, Government of India, has developed a Month long course curriculum on Bamboo technology, which is recognised by Directorate General of Employment and Training Government of India. CBTC in association with the Directorate of Employment and Craftsman Training, Government of Assam, has introduced Bamboo Technology Course at Kokrajhar with World Bank assistance.

(iii) The Bamboo and Cane Institute at Agartala (Tripura) under the Ministry of Textile, Government of India, imparts training to the artisans for a period of six months with a stipend of Rs. 350/- per trainee per month with free hostel facilities.